



The Mentor Fall 2017

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St. Matthew's Church Mission Statement

St. Matthew's, an historic church rooted in the Episcopal tradition, shares the love of Christ, putting faith into action through worship, prayer and outreach in the downtown community and beyond.

Worship Schedule

Sunday 7:30 AM Holy Eucharist
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 12:00 PM Healing Service with Holy Eucharist

Saturday 5:00 PM Evening Prayer with Holy Eucharist

The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller, Bishop of Milwaukee

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

The Very Rev. Matthew L. Buterbaugh, Rector & Dean of Racine/Kenosha Convocation

The Rev. Robert Bagley, Deacon

Treasurer

Rick Stoddard

Wardens

Geoff Greeley, Senior Warden

Ken Specht, Junior Warden

Vestry

Jenny Cobb

Geoff Price

Aaron Foutch

Jim Singer

Rachel Lochtefeld

B. J. VanKammen

Kirsten McVey

Zachary West

Amy Parrish

Staff

Kay Sutton, Organist/Choir Director

Abigail Wincek, Office Manager

Mary Weiser, Parish Secretary

Jeff Tyree, Facilities Manager

Lynn Heller, RN, Parish Nurse

Franklin Gail, Verger

Leigh Travanty, Sexton

Fall 2017 Highlights

Sunday Service Times 7:30 & 10:30 a.m. Saturday 5:00 p.m.

- Sunday, September 3: Service time changes from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, September 10: Nursery Care begins in Tower Area for 10:30 a.m. service
Annual Parish Picnic on 7th Avenue
following 10:30 a.m. service
- Thursday, September 14: First in Speaker Series in the Guild Hall at 6:30 p.m.
Dr. Barbara Lee Brown from the Milwaukee Art Museum
- Sunday, September 17: St. Matthew's Day Celebration
Adult Choir Returns to 10:30 a.m. service
Usher Training 9:00 a.m. in the church
- Tuesday, September 19: Acolyte Training 5:00 p.m. in the church
- Sunday, September 24: Lay Reader Training 9:00 a.m. in the Church
- Sunday, October 1: Stewardship Campaign Kick-Off
Blessing of the Animals 3:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 14: Diocesan Convention
- Sunday, November 12: Pledge Sunday Ingathering

Dear Friends,

Fall is approaching. This is the time that kids head back to school, the choir comes back and everything gears up around the church. It has been an interesting summer. I was away on sabbatical for much of it. There was rain upon rain, and magical disappearing and reappearing sidewalks. Despite all of this, the church had a really good summer. Attendance was up from previous summers, we had several baptisms, Men's Nights and Women's Nights out, and as always, Mass on the Grass.

Now we look ahead. We have Sunday School and the speaker series starting. There will be the church picnic, St. Matthew's Day and Stewardship season. These are all the normal things that happen in the fall in church. Life and energy are brought into our parish.

This energy gives us all an opportunity. How do we harness that new energy to do something new for ourselves? Maybe this fall is a good time for you to take on a new ministry. There are plenty of opportunities in the church. We can always use readers, ushers, acolytes Eucharistic Ministers and volunteers with Christian Education. Maybe there's a ministry opportunity connected to the church, but outside. There's the soup kitchen, CUSH and the Eldergarten. Another possibility is to use that energy you get week after week, fed by the Word and Sacrament, to find a ministry in the world. This could be volunteering for a local agency or cause.

Quite often, people wonder "why go to church." I hear people say that they can be good without religion. I do not doubt that. I know many good people outside of the Church. But as Christians, we come together week after week to be fed. We are fed by worship, teaching, community, and sacramental acts like healing and communion. We have a participatory faith. We participate in our common life together, and then we participate in the various ministries to which we are called.

St. Matthew's has been quite good at this participatory faith in action. I see people from this church around town and in the church doing God's work in all kinds of ways. It is our strength, and we can continue to build on that strength as we go forward.

Blessings and Peace,

Fr. Matthew+

Deacon's Report to the Congregation

Friends in Christ,

To begin our quarterly update to the parish, the Buildings & Grounds Committee would like to clarify the purpose and roles and responsibilities of the committee. The Buildings and Grounds Committee is tasked with maintaining all of the properties owned by the parish. The Committee:

- Identifies repairs, general upkeep, and improvement projects for St. Matthew's properties
- Researches potential solutions
- Creates business cases for major projects
- Shares these business cases with the parish and requests feedback
- Provides recommendations to the Vestry on implementation of projects

As you are probably aware, the Committee has started to work on a proposal to create a restroom on the main floor of the church that is suitable for use by people with mobility issues. We have worked with an architect and have received one possible solution. We are now in stages 3 and 4 – creating a business case and sharing the proposal with the congregation. As an advisory group, our committee asks for feedback from the congregation and then advises the Vestry based upon the Buildings & Grounds research, parish feedback, and vendor quotes. At this time, we are still in the discussion/design/proposal stage; a decision on whether or not to proceed has not been made.

Over the next few months, the Committee will be developing business cases for the large projects that are on our list. Once these cases have been developed, we will share them with the congregation and ask for comments and feedback. We anticipate that this will happen sometime in Q1 2018. Projects that have support from the congregation will be forwarded to the Vestry for further consideration, and the Vestry will then identify how the projects will proceed (approval, timing, funding, etc.).

If you have questions or would like to share your thoughts on any of these projects, please contact any of the team members: Karen Dubiel (Chair), Debi Rengers, Jamie Cairo, Holly Stoddard, David Dubiel, Jeff Tyree and Aaron Foutch (Vestry Representative).

Karen Dubiel
Buildings & Grounds Chair

A couple of weeks ago, on an August afternoon, a group of people estimated at about eighty individuals came together at Civic Center Park for a vigil. The gathering, planned by the Kenosha Branch of the NAACP in cooperation with CUSH and four other organizations, was in response to the violence and terrorism inflicted on Charlottesville VA by the alt-right, KKK and neo-Nazis. The Grand Dragon of the KKK was quoted in the Charlottesville newspaper as saying "I'm sorta glad that them people got hit and I'm glad that girl died... I think we're going to see more stuff like this happening at white supremacist events."

The folks who gathered in Kenosha that afternoon lit some candles and held some signs. They listened to speakers call for solidarity, voter registration and Election Day turnout, and becoming willing to do the hard work of building bridges with those we don't yet know. I counted Kate Green, Jenny McCombe, and Aaron Foutch in the group. At the end of the vigil, our own Father Matthew led the crowd in singing "We Shall Overcome."

In times like these, what does it mean to be a Christian?

St. Matthew's joined CUSH just over a year ago. CUSH is a nonpartisan, interfaith coalition working for social justice through advocacy, education and empowerment. When we joined CUSH we accepted the responsibility of forming a core of leaders who will take on the task of building relationships with church members and connecting them to CUSH's work. As I write this - at a time when we, this city, this state, this nation - need voices speaking out in faith, St. Matthew's is struggling to build our Core Team. A wide range of opportunities are available to church members whose congregations belong to CUSH. I encourage you to talk with me about where you might fit. Here are a few ways to be involved:

- Social justice book club: third Tuesday of each month at Northside Library - 6:30pm
- Fall fundraising breakfast: greeting, setting up or cleaning tables
- Sustaining membership: set up an automatic monthly gift to fund this work
- Administrative: help with CUSH newsletter, social media, mailings, phone calls
- Actions and vigils: show up in support, bring a friend, pass a clipboard, and share YOUR story

- Core team: have coffee with a member of our congregation to get to know them better, build public relationships, plan effective meetings and actions
- Task forces: work with other leaders to identify and work toward change
- Anti-racism committee: work with a team to help look at and address our institutional racism.

I ask each of you to consider how you might find your role and help to build a better community. Let's have that first conversation. "The Harvest is Plentiful, but the Workers are Few." (Matthew 8:37)

Deacon Bob

Adult Choir News

Adult Choir begins soon! Mark your calendars for September 17 to sing in the ST. MATTHEW'S DAY celebration. SPECIAL REHEARSAL ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the choir room where you will get your fall music packet, new fall service booklet, and learn the new liturgical music for fall as well as a festive anthem for St. Matthew's Day.

Adult Choir sings at the 10:30 service. We rehearse/warmup from 9:30-10:30 a.m. each Sunday. New members are welcome. Contact Kay Sutton, Choir Director for more information.

Christmas Pageant Needs a Coordinator

We have many little people in our pews of late. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see them in a Christmas Pageant? We have costumes and past scripts available. We need someone or a small group of people to lead the way.

If you are interested in coordinating this project or have a little one who would like to be involved, please email Jenny Cobb at jenny.cobb@yahoo.com.

Christian Formation

A year ago the Christian Formation Committee surveyed the parish and learned that many of us were interested in a Sunday School Program for children and a Speakers Series. We created a small group for school-age Students that met on most Sundays between services. In January-April, we had a series of speakers who came to the church on the 4th Thursday of the month.

This year we would like to continue these 2 programs but need volunteers to join us as we move forward. If you are interested in working with school-age students on Sundays or helping to manage the Speaker Series 2018-19, please contact Jenny Cobb at jenny.cobb@yahoo.com or 262-496-0774. We welcome any suggestions, ideas, and time you may have.

Annual Parish Picnic

Family and friends are invited to our parish picnic on Sunday, September 10, following the 10:30 a.m. service. Tables will be set up on 7th Avenue, between the church and the Guild Hall. Parking will still be at a minimum because of the road construction, so plan ahead for drop-off and pick-up.

A sign-up sheet is at the back of the church for all who wish to participate in setting up, serving, and cleaning up afterwards. Also, you can sign-up to bring a dish to pass and/or a dessert. Bring your picnic donations to the Guild Hall kitchen on the morning of September 10th.

1st in Speaker Series

The series begins on Thursday, September 14 at 6:30 pm in the Guild Hall with Dr. Barbara Brown Lee. Dr. Lee is the *Emeritus Director of Education at the Milwaukee Art Museum*. She has chosen some of her favorite religious works from the museum's collection and will share knowledge and insights about these treasures.

We are grateful for her time and willingness to share. Join us for coffee, dessert, and uplifting conversation.

Pictures from Fr. Matthew's sabbatical!

